IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cushioning material for supporting an inner first housing and an outer second housing in spaced apart relation, comprising:

a main body having a space within which at least a portion of only one of a plurality of corners of said first housing is received, and having a portion which comes into contact with an outer surface of said first housing for covering at least part of said first housing; ~~and~~

four projection portions formed to protrude from said main body toward said second housing, and provided on each of an upper surface, lower surface, and side surfaces of said main body[[,]] and

an opening formed at the corner of said main body,

wherein,

each one of said four projection portions has a contact surface ~~in~~ which comes into contact with a corresponding inner surface of said second housing,

said contact surface is formed so as to extend along said corresponding inner surface of said second housing, and

each one of said four projection portions being so configured that it can deform within a space under said second housing to absorb shock.

2. – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An information storage device removably mounted on a device body, comprising:

a hard disk driving mechanism;

a first housing for accommodating said hard disk driving mechanism therein;

a second housing for accommodating said first housing therein; and

a connector portion,

wherein,

said first housing is supported by a cushioning material to have a distance between said first housing and said second housing,

said cushioning material has a main body having a space within which at least a portion of only one of a plurality of corners of said first housing is received, and having a portion which comes into contact with an outer surface of said first housing to cover at least part of said first housing, an opening formed at the corner of said main body; and

said cushioning material has four projection portions formed to protrude from said main body toward said second housing, and provided on each of an upper surface, lower surface, and side surfaces of said main body,

each one of said four projection portions has a contact surface in which comes into contact with ~~an~~ a corresponding inner surface of said second housing, and is formed to extend along said corresponding inner surface of said second housing, and

each one of said four projection portions is effective to undergo suitable deformation with a space defined by said inner surface so as to absorb shock experienced by said first and second .

6. – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A cushioning device for maintaining first and second housings in spaced apart relation, said device comprising:

a main body with a space therein so configured to accommodate therein at least a portion of only one of a plurality of corners of said first housing, said main body having four outer surfaces formed on each of an upper surface, a lower surface, and side surfaces of said main body to come into contact with corresponding inner surfaces of said second housing; and

a shock absorbing configuration in said main body effective to deform to absorb mechanical shock experienced by said first and second housings while maintaining said spaced apart relation,

wherein,

said shock absorbing configuration comprises an opening formed at the corner of said main body which is effective to deform to absorb shock when said first and second housings are

subjected to mechanical shock.

10. (Previously Presented) The cushioning device of claim 9, wherein said shock absorbing configuration comprises at least one projection on each of said upper surface, lower surface, and side surfaces of said main body of said main body.

11. (Previously Presented) The cushioning device of claim 9, wherein three orthogonal outer surfaces form a corner, and said shock absorbing configuration comprises projections.

12. – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A cushioning material for supporting an inner first housing and an outer second housing in spaced apart relation, comprising:

a main body having a space within which at least a portion of only one of a plurality of corners of said first housing is received, an inner surface which comes into contact with an outer surface of said first housing for covering at least part of said first housing, and an outer surface, said main body being configured so that interior surfaces of said space cover portions of four surfaces of said corner of said first housing;

an opening formed at the corner of said main body; and

at least one projection portion formed to protrude from said main body outer surface toward said second housing,

wherein,

said projection portion has a contact surface which comes into contact with an inner surface of said second housing, said contact surface being opposite to said inner surface in contact with said outer surface of said first housing,

said contact surface is formed so as to extend along said inner surface of said second housing, and

said projection being so configured that it can deform within a space under said second housing to absorb shock.